

Data Sharing & Mapping Task Annual Report & Action Plan Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Accomplishments of Past Year:

The Data Sharing & Mapping Task Force (the Task Force) met 5 times since the last annual report: meetings occurred on July 25, September 8, and November 5, 2014, and on January 28 and March 18, 2015. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted to the Commission's web site upon approval by the Task Force.

Data Sharing: At the February 2014 Children's Commission meeting, the Task Force was asked to examine the feasibility of data-sharing that would allow Indiana to report on the educational outcomes of system-involved youth. Since that time, the Task Force has studied relevant data-sharing efforts underway in other parts of state government, particularly the Indiana Network of Knowledge (INK), and whether the Task Force could partner with INK in order to gain the necessary information. After promising discussions, further research into INK's enabling statute revealed that Ind. Code 22-4.5-10-4(b)'s prohibition on sharing certain types of data would prevent further collaboration between INK and the relevant state agencies. The Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE) Statewide Longitudinal Data System potentially offers the possibility of tracking the Commission's desired data. The Task Force is pursuing further discussions with the IDOE. Finally, in December 2014, the Task Force sent a team (the Georgetown Team) to the Information Sharing Certificate Program at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University. Team members included Julie Whitman, the Task Force Co-Chair and Vice President of Programs at the Indiana Youth Institute; Doris Tolliver, Chief of Staff, Department of Child Services; Lisa Thompson, Project Manager, Court Technology; and, Michael Commons, Family Law Attorney, Indiana Supreme Court Division of State Court Administration. Team members have started working on a capstone project, and the Task Force believes this endeavor presents the most promising opportunity to enable the sharing of data on system-involved youth in order to track educational outcomes. Through this project, the Team will develop a legal handbook about information sharing laws and regulations—specifically, if and how information related to vulnerable children can be shared among DCS, courts, schools, service providers (including mental health), and other stakeholders. The Task Force has obtained a grant from Casey Family Programs to help fund the capstone project.

Mapping: Thanks to the diligent work of graduate students, the Task Force was able to analyze the responses from the 2013-2014 surveys of providers and schools and compile a database. The Task Force also collaborated with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) to compare the PLA's registry of behavioral health service providers with the survey results. Task Force members created maps from both the PLA and the Task Force databases, which did reflect geographic disparities in mental health and substance abuse services for vulnerable youth based on population, numbers of juvenile court cases, and location of service providers. The Task Force presented those findings to the Commission at its February, 2015 meeting. The Task Force gave its database to Connect2Help/211 for further review after an analysis showed that at least one-third of our database's providers were not in 211's registry. The Task Force anticipates that 211 will add some of those providers to its database. The Task Force also met with Dr. Hannah Maxey of the Health Workforce Studies Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine to learn about her program's work identifying Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) throughout Indiana, and to view her program's maps. Dr. Maxey's maps identified some of the same geographical areas as the Task Force survey of providers as places that are currently underserved by mental health and substance abuse professionals. The Task Force believes this

project presents a promising opportunity for further collaboration, specifically as a means to fulfill the Commission's duties as enumerated in its enabling legislation (Ind. Code 2-5-36-9 & -10).

CURRENT ACTION PLAN

Data Sharing: The Task Force will facilitate and support the Georgetown Team's capstone project, which consists of: an analysis of federal and state law regarding information sharing/privacy; a survey, at the local level, of family case managers, juvenile probation officers, detention centers, and school principals/social workers to identify what information they now share and would like to share; a published practice brief/manual on information sharing/privacy laws; and, the identification of counties to participate in a pilot information-sharing project and the creation of an MOU for sharing data on educational outcomes of system-involved youth. The Task Force will also add new members as necessary from relevant state agencies in order to advance the capstone project. The Task Force is also exploring ways to put together system-level education and court data to answer questions about the educational outcomes of system-involved youth.

Mapping: The Task Force will continue its collaboration with the Health Workforce Studies Program in order to identify providers who see patients aged 18 and younger. Currently, the program lacks the capacity to examine the age data for patient populations. The Task Force is committed to exploring ways to assist the Health Workforce Studies Program with capacity building, because the Commission is under a statutory charge to collect and analyze exactly this type of information.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals:

- Complete and publish practice brief/manual on federal and state information-sharing & privacy laws: **August 2015**
- Conduct and complete survey of stakeholders information-sharing practices: **August 2015**
- Meet with DOE, DCS, and Court Technology staff to prepare and execute MOU for sharing data on educational outcomes of system-involved youth: **Ongoing**

Recommendations for the Commission:

- Establish a task force on mental health services for vulnerable youth, or add that charge to an existing task force.
- Convene a meeting of agencies funding mental health and substance abuse services to vulnerable youth in order to collaborate on developing a common set of requirements and forms for service providers, in order to streamline the providers' reporting, financial, and accountability procedures.
- Support efforts by the Indiana State Health Department to establish HPSAs (Health Professional Shortage Areas) in order to bring federal resources into Indiana to help ease the shortages of health and mental health providers for youth, especially in rural areas.
- Request that Commission members direct their staffs to fully cooperate with the Task Force's data-sharing capstone project currently underway.

Anticipated Next Steps:

- Meet with IDOE staff on data-sharing matters.
- Using the Casey grant, interview and hire a law student to assist with legal research for capstone project.

- Using the Casey grant, interview and hire a graduate student to design, distribute, and analyze a survey to stakeholders for the capstone project.
- Collaborate with the Indiana Office of Technology to identify possible support for the Health Workforce Studies Program with vetting and analyzing PLA data, in order to build capacity.
- Continue partnership with Health Workforce Studies Program to fulfill the Commission's legislative charge under Ind. Code 2-5-36-9, which requires that the Commission "study and evaluate . . . access to services for vulnerable youth; availability of services for vulnerable youth; duplication of services for vulnerable youth; funding of services available for vulnerable youth; barriers to service for vulnerable youth; and, the consolidation of existing entities that serve vulnerable youth.

Respectfully submitted,

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